the Hindustan Times dated 30th June, 1992. As the news item does not appear to be based on facts, the question of ordering any enquiry does not arise. The factual position is that a policy holder has a right to surrender his insurance policy and claim surrender value in terms of the policy and as per the existing guidelines of LIC There is nothing irregular, therefore, in UC officers making payments of surrender value to policyholders. It is not ture that there was widespread excess payment of surrender value of LIC policies involving crdres of rupees as alleged in the news items. Some excess payment of surrender value was noticed in respect of few policies in "Calcutta amounting to Rs. 3.46 lacs and the entire amount was also recovered, by LIC. As regards medical fees, these . are paid to the doctors who are in the approved list of LIC, as per fixed' schedule and there does not appear t6 be any basis for the allegation that 'crores of rupees paid by LIC as medical fees are shared by officials, agents and medical examiners".

Central assistance for development of, Tourism in M.P.

*94. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIA-, TION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount released, including per capita, by the Central Government on development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years together with the names of places where the amount was spent; and

(b) what is the number of foreign tourists that visited the State during the last three years and whether their number has been continuously increasing?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND lOURISM (SHRI MA-DHWfiAO SCINDIA): (a) Development "of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Central financial assistance is, extended to the State Governments on specific proposals, based on their merits availability, of funds and *inter se* priorities.

During the last three years financial assistance amounting to Rs. 351.52 lakhs was released to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for various projects/ schemes which included the construction of two *Yatri Niwases* at Ujjain and Jabalpur; one *Yatrika* at Nemawar; six *Tourist Bur.galows* at Maheshwar, Onikareshwar, Amarkantak, Tamia, Kanker and Panna National Park; Tourist Lodges/ Cottages at six locations namely, Pachmarhi, Badamahadev, Dodhi, Orchcha, Siddhaghat Ratlam; *Wayside amenities* at seven places Khaighat, Mazagawan (Panna), Datia, Bhojpur, Naugaon, Jhabua, Udaipura; one *Tourist Complex* at Chitrakool and a *Reception Centre* at Khajuraho. Assistancs was also extended towards adventure sports flood-lighting of monuments, tented accommodation and publicity etc.

(b) The staristes of foreign *tourist* arrivals for Madhya Pradesh during the last three years are not available.

पर्यटकों के लिए "पेइंग गैस्ट" आवास

*95. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय और विदेशी पर्यटकों की सुविधा के लिए "पेइंग गैस्ट" आवास योजना प्रारम्भ की है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इसे किन-किन स्थानों पर प्रारम्भ किया गया है ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) सरकार ने पेइंग गैस्ट आवास स्कीम को अखिल भारतीय आधार पर शुरू

किया है ताकि स्वदेशी तथा विदेशी दोनों प्रकार के पर्यटकों के लिए आवास की उपलब्धता में वृद्धि की जा सके ।

पर्यटक आवास के लिए अतिरिक्त उपयुक्त कमरों वाले मकानों के मालिकों को इस स्कीम के अंतर्गत सूचीबद्ध किया जाएगा ताकि विदेशी तथा स्वदेशी पर्यटकों को सस्ता, स्वास्थ्यकर और साधारण आवास उपलब्ध कराया जा सके ।

चार क्षेत्रीय समितियों का गठन किया गया है जिनमें केन्द्र व राज्य के पर्यटन विभागों, यात्रा व्यवसाय तथा जिला प्रशासन के प्रतिनिधियों को रखा गया है और ये समितियां मानदण्ड टैरिफ एवं दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार, जिनमें उपयुक्तता, गम्य मार्ग, उपलब्ध कराई जाने वाली सुविधाएं, आदि जैसी बातें शामिल हैं, पेइंग गैस्ट के लिए आवास का पंजीकरण करने के लिए सक्षम हैं । कुछेक राज्य सरकारों को भी इस व्यवस्था में सम्मिलित किया गया है जिनकी ऐसी ही स्कीमें हैं ।

इस आवास की उपलब्धता का व्यापक प्रचार किया जाएगा ।

Government's failure to contain price rise

*96. SHRl N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased *to* state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have failed to arrest the rising trend in the prices of essential commodities, even after the completion of one year of its rule;

(b) if so, what were the prices of the essential commodities at the time the present Government came into power and what are the pride's after the completion of one year of its rule;

(c) what is the breakup of the wholesale and the consumer price index during the last eight months, month-wise indicating the sector-wise breakup; and

(d) what are the reasons for the failure of Government in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a), (b) and (d) The price situation of essential commodities at the time of assumption of office and after completion of one year by the Government is given at Statement (*.See* below).

The first year of the Government in office was a difficult year characterised as it was by the rapercussiong' of the Gulf war, general recession in the economy, sluggish growth of agricultural production and balance of payments crunch which together put a continuous pressure on prices. To bring price situation under control, the Government initiated a number of steps for maer.o-economic stabilisation during the year. These measures helped to arrest the inflationary spiral in the economy, particularly in essential commodities and a downturn in prices was set in from September 1991. The rate of inflation which was 12.1 per cent when the government assumed office and which peaked at 16.7 per cent in August, 1991 declined to 13.6 per cent at the end of March 1992 and to 11.4 per cent on June 20, 1992.

The annual rates of inflation in food articles and food products, which include most of the essential commodities, have been brought down to 16.6 per cent and 10.9 per cent respectively from- 17.4 per cent and 13.6 per cent a year ago. The prices of many essential commodities such as grafts masur, onions, fruits (mangoes, oranges), eggs, condiments ft spices (black pepper, dry ginger betelnuts and garlic), tea, coffee groundnut oil, khandsari, gur, kerosene, etc. have decreased during the last one year. High rate of inflation is still persisting in some essential commodities such as rice, wheat jowar, bajra, atta, soft coke etc. on and count of demand and supply imbalances increase in administered prices, including procurement/issue prices of these com modifies. The rate of inflation in respec of most of the essential commodities i